Government has agreed to supply adequate gas to the Assam Gas Cracker Project required to produce 2 lakh tonnes per annum of ethylene. Gas is already being supplied to the power project of North Eastern Electric Power Company (NEEPCO) at Kathalguri. While gas is available for supply to power plant of ASEB at Kathalguri, the ASEB has stopped drawing the gas from 1996 onwards. Govt. has also agreed to allocate 0.50 MMSCMD of gas to the Amguri power project from the overall allocation of ASEB which is not being fully utilised.

(e) The quantity of gas being flared in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh is of the order of 0.6 MMSCM/Day valued approximately at Rs. 5.86 lakhs.

Modernisation of Guwahati Refinery

103. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 379 given in the Rajya Sabha dated 2nd December, 1999 and state:

(a) whether Guwahati Refinery was not included in the proposed modernisation of Indian Oil Corporation refineries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the details of the modernisation plan indicating list of proposals, estimated outlays and Commission schedule projectors;

(d) the sanction and implementation status of capacity augmentation (0.44 MMTPA), Boilers (2×85 MT/H), GT (20 MW), paraffin Wax, Needle Coke production and N-paraffin distillation facility (150 SIV) projects proposed earlier for Guwahati Refinery; and

(e) the steps initiated to make the refinery economically viable in the global competitive environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNU-

SWAMY): (a) and (b) Guwahati Refinery has been included in the proposed modernisation of Indian Oil Corporation Refineries.

(c) The details of ongoing projects undertaken for modernisation of Guwahati Refinery are as under:—

Name of the Project	Approved Cost (Rs. Cr.)	Anticipated Schedule
Yield & Energy Optimisation of Crude Distillation Unit	17.35	Apr., 2000
Yield & Energy Optimisation of Delayed Coking Unit	32.15	Apr., 2000
Production of unleaded MS by ISOSIV process	48.00	Jan., 2001
Hydrotreatment Facilities for HSD quality improvement	497.00	Feb., 2002
INDMAX project (for maximizing LPG production)	86.00	July, 2001

(d) The status of the projects is given below:—

Capacity Augmentation (0.44 MMTPA)

This pertains to capacity expansion of Delayed Coking Unit from 0.33 MMTPA to 0.44 MMTPA. The necessity of capacity expansion of Delayed Coker will be assessed after commissioning of Indmax project.

Boiler (2×85 MT/HR) & Gas Turbine (20MW)

The project would be taken up after assessing the future steam and power demand.

Paraffin Wax

In view of high project cost and lower market price of paraffin wax, this project has been presently found to be economically unviable.

Needle Coke

Since the Technology for production of needle coke is closely guarded, the Technology is being developed through in-house R&D efforts.

N-Paraffin Distillation Facility

This project is expected to be completed by January, 2001.

(e)The following actions have also been initiated to make the refinery economically viable in the global competitive environment:—

(i) Yield energy optimisation revamp of Crude Distillation unit.

(ii) Yield energy optimisation revamp of Delayed Coking unit.

(iii) Facilities for production of unleaded Ms (ISOSIV) by separating normal paraffins from naphtha.

(iv) Hydrotreatment facilities for HSD components.

(v) INDMAX project for conversion of Coker Fuel Oil to LPG and MS/HSD components.

Setting up of oil refinery in Orissa

104. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have abandoned the project to set up oil refinery in Orissa; and

(b) the details of progress made to set up oil Refinery in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The land acquisition by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) who are setting up the refinery is in progress. Project Management